

U.S. Embassy Bahrain
Security Message to U.S. Citizens – September 10, 2014

As the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks approaches, the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain reminds U.S. citizens of the need for caution and awareness of personal security. While there are currently no specific threats identified toward the Embassy or our interests in Bahrain on the 9/11 anniversary, U.S. Citizens should be aware that terrorist organizations have demonstrated the intent and capability to carry out attacks against U.S. interests around the world and recently in the region. In the recent past, terrorist organizations have on occasion planned their attacks to coincide with significant dates on the calendar.

Review your personal security plans; remain aware of your surroundings, including local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Please take a moment to review our general guidance on personal security on our [website](#). Maintain a high level of vigilance, take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities. We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Bahrain enroll in the Department of State's [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#). STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Spontaneous demonstrations take place in Bahrain from time to time in response to world events or local developments. United States citizens should keep current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times. If you encounter a large public gathering or demonstration, depart the vicinity immediately.

Please see below for a map. Areas shaded in red are off-limits to U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members at all times. U.S. Citizen Embassy employees and their family members are permitted to travel in the areas shaded in yellow during daylight hours only.

There have been no direct attacks on U.S. citizens to date. We recommend that you continually exercise the appropriate level of security awareness in regards to anti-U.S. activity or events. Spontaneous and, at times, violent anti-government of Bahrain protests continue to occur, particularly at night and on weekends. These protests have included blockades of major highways with burning debris and the establishment of unofficial checkpoints. Protestors have thrown rocks and Molotov cocktails and used homemade weapons to include improvised explosive devices (IED) and shotgun like projectile launchers. To counter these violent acts and restore order, the Ministry of Interior will utilize crowd control measures, such as tear gas, stun grenades, and if necessary, birdshot. Violent clashes between security forces and protestors can make travel in and around Bahrain dangerous without advance warning. The Ministry of Interior maintains official checkpoints in certain areas. IED usage throughout the country continues to take place primarily in the restricted areas and against police forces. Additional IED attacks remain likely. The IEDs have been secreted into areas along certain neighborhood streets and common streets throughout the restricted areas. Avoid areas where the MOI's police forces are gathered due to the threat of likely pending anti-Government of Bahrain (GOB) activities. Do not attempt to drive through or otherwise remove debris strewn across roadways. Use caution and alter your daily routes of travel to avoid known problem areas.

We remind U.S. citizens that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. U.S. citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations.

For the latest security information, U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the Department of State's Internet website at travel.state.gov where the [Worldwide Caution](#), [Country Specific Information](#), [Travel Warnings](#), and [Travel Alerts](#) can be found. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. Download our free Smart Traveler app, available through [iTunes](#) or [Google Play](#), to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or, from other countries, on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm Monday through Friday, Eastern Time (except U.S. federal holidays).

The U.S. Embassy in Manama can be reached at (973) 1724-2700; the afterhours emergency number is (973) 1724-2957; the fax number is (973) 1725-6242. The Embassy's [website](#), <http://bahrain.usembassy.gov>, includes travel information and the Worldwide Caution and Demonstration Notices. The Consular Section can be reached at ManamaConsular@state.gov.

The U.S. Embassy is located at:
Bldg 979, Road 3119, Block 331, Zinj
Kingdom of Bahrain

BAHRAIN: OFF-LIMITS AREAS

